

Minutes of the meeting of the ETBA March 4, 2010:

President Andrew Bellefeuille opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag and the invocation. He then apologized to all members regarding recent emails. Persons visiting for the first time were introduced.

Vi reported that ETBA's queen and princess are very busy with presentations and other activities. Kellie reported that she had attended the opening of the Bee Lab at TAM Univ. and enjoyed seeing the new building. She brought goodies from her recipes to the meeting. Merry Margaret was not able to be in attendance. Vi reported on the accidental death of the mother of one of our student beekeepers. She advised that flowers were sent and acknowledgment has been received.

What should beekeepers be doing at this time? If supers are light, feed one to one. Hives should be checked, and if they are found to be very light, it would be good to feed two to one. April cold fronts can be very damaging. It was reported that a lot of pollen is being seen.

Mikael Rappazzo, a 2007 scholarship student, who attended Mr. Count's beekeeping class gave a power point presentation of his beekeeping experiences. He advised that he lost his first hive, but did harvest four gallons of honey in 2008. In 2009, he started with 7 hives; however, he did lose some of his hives due to insecticide. He has helped with presentations about bees, and he has photographed bees and has one of his pictures by the American Bee Journal. He would like to have ten hives by the end of 2010. He enjoys his membership in the internet site for beekeepers. His presentation included a series of pictures of supers and other woodwork that he made for his bees. Much of the equipment, he built from scrap lumber. He has purchased some new equipment, but makes most of it. He purchases off-color paint, which is a real saving for him. He makes his own syrup, sugar candy, and container labels.

Mikael's father reported that it had been an interesting experience working with his son in the beekeeping project. He also advised that his younger son is following in his brother's footsteps.

The new layout for the newsletter was discussed. One of our new members is responsible, and he was thanked for his efforts.

The ETBA was represented at the Fruit and Vegetable Conference and those members working the conference were thanked for their help. A Bloom Festival is coming up at Grand Saline March 27, Wills Point Bluebird Festival in April, and Longview Tree Festival May 5.

Cookbooks are still available. See Don to make purchase.

Voting for new officers will be held at the April meeting. The following nominations were made:

President - Andrew Bellefeuille
Vice President - Gloria Harmon
Secretary - Karen Anderson
Treasurer - Don Johnson
Reporter - Dick Counts
Executive Director - Dick Counts
Directors - Randy Bobo
 - Stanford Brantley
Program - Mikael Rappazzo
 Eddie Collins
 Savannah

Stan suggested that we have six programs per year, which would be on the nights we do not have auction. It was the consensus of those present that this would be a good idea. It was also suggested that use of a panel periodically could be interesting. Dick also suggested that the 6 p.m. discussion for new beekeepers might be tried again if the interest is there. Mentoring for new beekeepers was also suggested.

All members were encouraged to wear their name tags. They can write their home town name on the tag. Visual library is now available on CD. See Don Johnson if you want to review. Andrew advised that WELCOME books will again be available soon.

The summer clinic will be held in June at the new beelab .

The East Texas Farm News and Country World have had articles including pictures and discussion with Dick Counts.

It was reported that African honey bees are nearing being nationwide. Randy advised that the African bee workers will join regular hives and they get the odor and than the swarm will join the hive, killing the queen and taking over the hive.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Ethridge\
Acting Secretary